FAMILY LIFE

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The Changing Family in a Changing World

The family is the oldest institution in existence. In fact it goes back far beyond anything that can be called human because the higher animals display various habits which put together, make almost all of what we consider family life. The family has survived while every civilization has risen and fallen, every nation has had its day and been supplanted by another. It is an interesting question how the family has survived in this extraordinary way. The answer lies mainly in the fact that the family is a highly adaptable institution. It can change to fit itself into the civilization of the time. If the changes are in the direction of progress and survival all is well. On the other hand, the history of mankind is the history of nations which have perished because the changes in their family life were in the wrong direction.

From this point of view it is worth while to examine the remarkable changes that have taken place in our family life since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and to a large extent within the memory of many persons now living. Textbooks commonly itemize the following five changes as most conspicuous:

1. The family is smaller. In the United States it now averages not more than 2.3 children and in half of the states it is in fact too small even to provide for the perpetuation of the group.

It is commonly asserted that this smaller family gives the mother more freedom both to work and to play. No doubt the extraordinary proportion of mothers who now have full-time jobs with pay outside the home, is made possible by the smaller size of the family. There is not yet clear evidence as to whether the home can prosper or even survive in these circumstances. The mother also has more time (if she is not in the labor force) for self-expression outside the home. This gives her a chance to make a needed contribution to community welfare.

2. The family is more independent. That is, it is more detached from its kinship. This leads frequently to a lack of roots, a lack of feeling of continuity and permanence. The frequent moves of families have produced a unique situation for many of them. It is perhaps not an exaggeration to say that this is the first time in the history of mankind that the whole responsibility of establishing a family has been put on

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two persons. In the past there would usually be a circle of relatives and friends near at hand to give counsel and actual help. Compare this with the typical marriage in such a community as Southern California. A young man from Illinois meets a young woman from Tennessee. Neither knows anything about the other's background. They marry and establish a home. There is almost literally no one person who knows that they are married, much less cares. They have gone into marriage and into the divorce court before the next-door neighbors even know their names. This independence of the family demands much greater preparation for marriage and family life than ever before. It requires better training in the home and adequate education in the schools with extensive pre-marital counseling and adequate facilities for counseling after marriage. Such requirements have not yet been met anywhere.

3. The family is more loosely integrated. There are fewer educational features in the home, less family recreation, less sharing of work. There is more competition and less cooperation between the sexes in the home. No adequate education has been provided to make the most of the good features of this loose integration and avoid the obvious and serious dangers.

4. The family is more individualistic. Each child gets more attention, and the individual rather than the family tends to be the unit. A child may thus develop greater individuality of his own, but he finds it more difficult to adjust to group life later. Some attempt has been made to remedy this by nursery schools and cooperative play groups but not on an adequate scale. Even worse is the increasing gap between the generations, which leads the adolescents to feel that they are a group apart, not understood by the parental generation, and not given a functional place in the culture. Many students of the subject attribute the increase of juvenile delinquency largely to this antagonism between the generations. Little effort has been made by school, church and community organizations to integrate the teen-agers with our whole culture and make them feel that they have a real and responsible role to play which brings them recognition and satisfaction.

5. The family is more equalitarian. This claim seems to have very little support from the evidence available. Absurd stories are told of the patriarchal tyranny that is supposed to have been the rule in the past or even one generation ago. There are plenty of people now living who have a clear recollection of what was going on one generation ago. It is doubtful whether there was any more patriarchal tyranny than now. In some circles the increasing share of housework done by the father is regarded with pride as an evidence of an increasingly equalitarian relationship between the sexes. Sometimes the result is that the children have no father, merely a mother and an assistant mother, with resulting disastrous effect on their own patterns of development. Much remains to be done through division of labor, family councils and the like to establish a rational equalitarianism in the home.

In short, all five changes carry possibilities of progress, but likewise embody threats of disintegration of family life. A careful study of them, and concerted far-reaching efforts to keep them going in the right direction is essential to family, and therefore to national, survival.—P.P.

Around the World

AUSTRIA continues to have the highest illegitimacy rate of any country in Europe.

INDIA'S POPULATION will almost double by 1986, should the present high birth—and low death rates continue. Thirty years from today there will be some 800 million people living in a country about two-fifths the area of the United States. Such an excess population will stifle India's economic development and will make fulfillment of her five-year plans almost impossible. However, if the births decline immediately and continue to do so till half the present level is reached by 1981, economic development will be possible. Accordingly, India's population by 1986 would be about 600 million. If the birth rate should only start to decline by 1966, economic betterment might be possible though more costly in terms of the postponed and more uncertain economic gains. From *Population Bulletin,* XIV (8), Dec. 1958.

FRANCE'S National Commission for Home Care recently held a conference. Some 110 participants reported their work with the aged and the isolated. Mr. Vassaux, Director of the Tenon Hospital in Paris, described a successful experiment with home hospital care for the aged. One-hundred-twenty-two cases were saved some 6,000 hospital days, over a period of a year and a half. To date there are 40 associations for h o m e care in 27 of France's departments.

FRENCH CIVIL WIDOWS who are heads of families, may receive assistance from the National Association of Civil Widows. The association has been able to obtain financial compensation for the sick who live on social security as well as for the non-socially insured and their dependents. In several departments it has succeeded in obtaining special allocations for mothers with three or more children. On the national level, the association has obtained voluntary social security benefits for the widows of men who had social insurance.

MORE THAN 10,000 CHILDREN under 14 years of age are still in the refugee camps of Europe, according to the U.N. Trusteeship for Refugees. The children live with their families in cramped and unsanitary quarters. In many cases they suffer from undernutrition and are prone to such infectious diseases as tuberculosis. Today, the Trusteeship is faced with the problem of rehabilitating refugees who have lived in these camps for more than ten years. It plans to construct low rent housing projects in various countries. The evacuation campaign should be finished by December 1960, at the latest.

IT'S ALL IN KNOWING HOW, price 10c from the National Dairy Council, 111 N. Canal st., Chicago 6, Ill. A guide to an educational film on nutrition produced by the Council. For teachers and other leaders.

HERMAPHRODITES AND INTERSEXES

"Male and female created He them", but it has long been recognized that the case is not always so simple. An occasional individual appears who seems to be "a little of each." The ancients talked of a person, the offspring of Mercury and Venus,—Hermes and Aphrodite,—who was a mixture of two sexes; and they believed some savage tribes were made up of persons, all of whom showed this combination. In modern times such individuals have been seen now and again,—often in side shows at the circus!—and they have been described fully in medical literature. Two Johns Hopkins surgeons have now covered the ground in a large and heavily illustrated book, *Hermaphroditism, Genital Anomalies, and Related Endocrine Disorders.*

Sex, they point out, is not the simple matter that it appears to be when the first question is asked about the newborn, "Is it a boy or a girl?" Sex can be described in terms of at least seven characteristics, the first five of which are organic and the last two of which are psychological:

1. Chromosomal arrangement.
2. Gonadal structure.
3. Morphology of the external genitalia.
4. Morphology of the internal genitalia.
5. Hormonal status.
6. Sex of rearing.
7. Gender role of the individual.

All of these are treated (the first five most fully) by the authors, gynecologist Howard W. Jones jr., urologist William Wallace Scott, and their four contributors. None of the descriptive terms turns out to be as simple as has been usually supposed.

Take No. 1, for instance. Every writer has repeated, for a generation or more, the accepted fact that the sex of the offspring is determined once and for all at the moment of conception. There were said to be 24 pairs of chromosomes in the fertilized egg cell, one pair being the sex chromosomes. A fertilized egg with the XY combination would produce a boy, one with the XX combination a girl—that's all there was to it. But it is not even certain how many pairs there are. Several investigators have recently claimed that there are 23, not 24. Counting 48 or even 46 tiny objects in a single cell is no easy job.

During the last eight or ten years another, and easier way to differentiate the cells has been found. Apart from the chromatin in the tiny rods called chromosomes, a mass of chromatin has been seen under the nuclear membrane in body cells. Such cells are easy to collect—the common method is to scrape the inside of the mouth and get a little of the mucous membrane. This mass of chromatin is visible in more than half of the cells taken from a woman, but in only three or four percent of those taken from a man. It is subsequently found that some women have the male type of cell, some men have female cells.

The evidence now suggests that the chromosomes determine mainly the structure of the gonads or sex glands, testis or ovary. In the very small embryo the reproductive system starts as the genital ridges, from which the sex glands develop. The small embryo has the rudiments of both ovaries and testes, and the chromosome make-up determines primarily which of the two

will go forward. The testis seems to be the one which actually controls further development. If it produces hormones liberally, the development will be toward maleness; if not, the development will be toward femaleness. The embryo would develop into a female, if the testis secretions did not prevent this and swing the development over to masculinity. If the testis secretions are present but insufficient, the development will be incomplete.

The foregoing is a highly oversimplified and therefore inadequate description of an extraordinarily complicated situation which has been studied extensively in a variety of extremely delicate and difficult experiments. The chromosome arrangement (No. 1 above) produces the gonadal structure (No. 2) which in turn controls the form of the external genitals (No. 3) and the internal genitals (No. 4), the last two characteristics being somewhat independent. These in turn give rise to the sex hormones (No. 5), which are numerous, variable, and not yet fully understood. Testis and ovary alike produce both male and female sex hormones, as is generally known; the sex of the individual results from a balance between the two kinds. But probably all the other hormones in the body play some part; and in particular, an overgrowth of the outer layer (cortex) of the adrenal glands throws into the blood stream an immense amount of a masculinizing sex hormone, which accounts not merely for precocious sexual development of boys (a child of four or five years with full pubic hair and sex organs of adult size), but also and more commonly, the woman who is unpleasantly masculine in characteristics—body hair, a man's voice and the like.

Then comes the so-called sex of rearing (No. 6); in other words, the child is brought up, looked upon, and treated as a boy or girl. Sometimes the external genitalia of the newborn baby are not very well differentiated, but the obstetrician decides that it is a boy or girl, as the case may be, and the parents rear the child accordingly. The authors conclude that the sex of rearing is usually the most important factor in adult life. To state the case in an extreme form,—if a child is dressed as a boy, has his hair cut accordingly, is treated as a boy, and thinks he is a boy, and if everybody else thinks he is a boy, then he *is* a boy, no matter what his sex organs may be like. Sometimes a child is thus reared as a boy for six or eight years; then some physician advises the parents that "it" is really a girl; an attempt is made to swing the boy over into girlhood, with disastrous results.

Characteristic No. 7, the gender role is defined as "all those things a person says or does to disclose himself or herself as having the status of a boy or girl, a man or woman, respectively." It is appraised in relation to "general mannerisms, deportment and demeanor; play preferences and recreational interests; spontaneous topics of talk in unprompted conversation and casual comment; content of dreams, day dreams, and fantasies; replies to oblique inquiries and projective tests; evidence of erotic practices, and, finally, the individual's replies to direct inquiry." Of 86 cases of hermaphrodites studied, the gender role was found to follow the "sex of rearing" in 82. When these two roles are at variance, psychiatric help is likely to be needed.

In a normal individual all seven of the criteria correspond as to sex. A

state of hermaphroditism is said to exist if there is a contradiction of one or more of the first five. When one considers the extraordinary complexity of development from the fertilized egg cell, the only cause for surprise is that anybody is "normal!" Most of the book is given over to a detailed discussion of the treatment, largely surgical, of these various forms of hermaphroditism, which may be relatively small, or exaggerated to the point where an occasional person has testicles producing sperm and ovaries producing egg cells. But there has never been a known case in which an individual was literally capable of being both a father and a mother.

If the five characteristics agree, and only the latter two psychological characteristics differ, it is not a case of hermaphroditism but a psychiatric problem—homosexuality, transvestism, and the like.

This monumental work, with 466 illustrations, mainly of surgical procedures, is of course directed primarily to the medical profession, but it will be a standard source of reference for students.

(HERMAPHRODITISM, GENITAL ANOMALIES, AND RELATED ENDOCRINE DISORDERS, by Howard W. Jones jr. and William Wallace Scott. Pp. 456, price $16 from Williams & Wilkins, Mount Royal and Guilford aves., Baltimore 2, Md., 1958).

Educational Notes

FIFTY YEARS of progress in home economics will be highlighted at the annual meeting of the American Home Economics Assn. in Milwaukee, June 23-26.

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE on homemaker services was held recently. Its aim—the development of programs to help families maintain themselves when illness or other major crises occur. Homemaker services keep families together when a parent is ill or stricken with death; permit the elderly to live in their own homes when they can no longer take over full housekeeping duties; and allow the release of some of the chronically ill from total hospital care.

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference on Family Relations was held in March. The Montana Society for Mental Health and the University of Montana sponsored the conference.

TWO MILLION boys and girls of high school age now have outside jobs during the school year, according to a calculation of the Department of Labor. Usually it is less than 15 hours a week, though some put in as many as 35 hours.

Research Notes

CANCER is much more common among children than is generally supposed. It accounts for one out of every four deaths in the United States for children 5 to 14 years old. Because infectious diseases have been brought under greater control, the malignancies have gained in relative importance. Today, the cancer death rate in children under 15 presents a 50% rise over what it was more than a decade ago. The main types of cancer that afflict children are, in order of frequency: 1. Leukemia; 2. Cancer of the nervous system; 3. Bone and kidney cancer.

NEW BOOKS IN BRIEF REVIEW

THE AMERICAN WOMAN, by Eric John Dingwall. Pp. 309, price $4.50 from Rinehart & Co., 232 Madison ave., New York 16, N.Y., 1957.

Dr. Dingwall, British sexual anthropologist, attempts to show how woman in America has attained her present position and how her influence permeates the whole of American culture. He quotes approximately 760 sources of material, much of it by obscure writers, to justify his thesis that "the conflict in the American soul (reflected in paradoxes and contradictions in American life) is an economic and sexual conflict, and the American woman is at the heart of it." The seeds of the American conflict were sown with the coming of the Puritans. Sex was frowned upon as a means of turning men's minds from God. The Puritans' concept of success in business as a mark of divine favor was shattered by non-Puritan successes which equaled or exceeded their own. This led to the breakdown of the spirit of Puritan ideology, but the husks of Puritanism remained, and these were transmitted to children by mothers and women teachers. The author carries through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, reiterating his theme that American women are dominant, frustrated, and unhappy because, as a result of Puritan influence, they deny their biologic urges and have moved into competition with men. Men are adolescent and unhappy because they are dominated by women and unable to escape from the bonds. America, as a whole, is a sex-obsessed nation, with men's lives further complicated by the pressure of business. Dr. Dingwall presents a sorry picture of American life and of both men and women in America. His conclusions are based on flimsy data; he presents a tedious array of lurid, sensational details, difficult to organize. No doubt he is sincere in his point of view, and no doubt there is some truth in what he says. But the author himself admits in the Preface that his book is "neither a scientific nor an objective study of the American woman." Actually, the book adds little to what has already been said, and, better said, about the relation of men and women in America.—*Erma Pixley,* M.A.

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COME GENTLY, SWEET LUCINA, by Patricia Cloyd Carter. Pp. 370 (no index), price $3.50 in leatherette, $5. in cloth binding, from the author, P. O. Box 460, Titusville, Fla., 1957.

Here is a book which is chiefly about having babies easily and safely—and far more too. It contains considerable information, well organized and clearly explained. But it also contains a kind of integrated wisdom that goes far beyond the specifics of parturition. The author is an intelligent, educated woman who possesses rare insight and deep conviction combined with humor and humility. Her observations on the relationship between men and women especially as it is affected by pregnancy, childbirth and recovery, should not miss the attention of anyone dealing with family relations. There are some extremely thought-provoking sections relating to both medicine and psychology. For profound glimpses of human relations with a light touch, don't miss it.—*Mary Jane Hungerford,* Ph.D.

DATING, MATING, AND MARRIAGE, by Jessie Bernard, Helen E. Buchanan, and William M. Smith jr. Pp. 410, price $4.75 from Howard Allen, P.O. Box 1810, University Center Station, Cleveland 6, Ohio, 1958. (Also available in a paperbound edition at $3.50.)

For those who believe in the value of the case-documentary method of teaching, this will come as a very welcome book. Aside from some introductory and conjunctive material by the authors, it is almost entirely composed of autobiographical or biographical case material.

Most of the cases were secured from students in the form of letters, interviews and spontaneous conversations. The authors carefully point out that sometimes there is distortion, as this autobiographical material is "pret--tified," but that it is, nonetheless, revealing.

On the whole, the book is excellently done. The authors have lived up to the criteria which they set for themselves in case selection. The cases *do* (1) focus on topics of interest to their young middle class audience, (2) avoid the bizzarre and extremely abnormal, (3) meet the requirements of case method and the specifications for documentary case presentation, and (4) are useful in stimulating discussion. Futhermore, valuable cross references to other texts are provided.—*Richard H. Klemer, Ph.D.*

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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CHILD, by Robert I. Watson, Pp. 662, price $6.95 from John Wiley & Sons, 440 Fourth ave., New York 16, N.Y., 1959.

Dr. Watson brings a much-needed integrated approach to the study of the child. He believes that traditional laboratory methods and clinical research techniques can be merged, or at least used, with a developmental theory. Presenting a developmental theory as the central issue, the book attempts to reconcile behavior-social learning theory with psychoanalytic theory. It converges the relationships between empirical evidence provided in general behavior-learning theories, and Freudian psychoanalytic concepts.

The author discusses the history, techniques and methodology used by various schools of thought in understanding child behavior. There is a comprehensive bibliography which provides an excellent, up-to-date view of child psychology. The book is a *must* for the professional's book shelf. —*Ruth Michaelson,* M.A.

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SOMETHING SHARED: Children and Books, by Phyllis Fenner. Pp. 234 (no index), price $4.50 from the John Day Co., 62 W. 45th st., New York 36, N.Y., 1959.

After half a lifetime as children's librarian, Miss Fenner has selected 26 pieces of prose that particularly interested her as giving a picture of the child's mind, the child's interest and delight in books. The book is good reading for all parents, and for all others interested in children or in books.

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MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY MOVE, by Garner Dodson. Pp. 256 (no index), price $3.95 from G. P. Putnam's Sons, 210 Madison ave., New York 16, N. Y., 1959.

Each year more than 10,000,000 families in the U.S. change their places of residence, so there should be plenty of use for a book telling them how to move as easily and profitably as possible. Mrs. Dodson is a geologist

who has worked with her husband in petroleum geology and made many moves as a result. Her book covers not merely the practical but the psychological aspects of moving, tells how to avoid losing your voting rights, discusses the problems involved in traveling with children. It should have wide appeal.

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DISCOVERING LOVE, by Lance Webb. Pp. 176, price $3. from Abingdon Press, Nashville 2, Tenn., 1959.

There is one supreme good in human life—the ability to love and be loved, says Dr. Webb, senior minister of the North Broadway Methodist Church of Columbus, Ohio. Many of us fail to attain this supreme good because we confuse two kinds of love—the *giving-love* that heals, inspires, and exhalts our human relationships, and the *desiring-love* that may hurt and devour them. Dr. Webb, who has devoted much time to counseling, particularly among alcoholics, has crammed this book full of good material—one can find something worth while on every page.

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TROUBLED WOMEN, edited by Lucy Freeman. Pp. 316 (no index), price $5 from World Publishing Co., 2231 W. 110th st., Cleveland 2, Ohio, 1959.

Ten "true stories of the inner lives of women as reported and interpreted by eminent psychoanalysts." Miss Freeman is a professional writer who has contributed several other books to the popularization of psychiatry, but who is uncritical in her admiration for psychoanalysis. The present interesting volume needs critical interpretation which few readers will be qualified to give.

THE FAMILY CLINIC, by John Thomas. Pp. 336, price $3.95 from the Newman Press, Westminster, Md., 1959.

Dr. Thomas is a well known Jesuit sociologist at St. Louis University and author of several authoritative books on family life. He also contributes a weekly column to many Roman Catholic newspapers, and in this volume has brought together 83 of these articles to make "a book of questions and answers." They range from a discussion of dating, through the problems of married life, to parenthood and "to spank or not to spank." Dr. Thomas writes plainly, sensibly and interestingly.

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WHAT WOMEN WANT TO KNOW ABOUT WILLS, by Earl S. MacNeill. Pp. 179, price $3.50 from Harper & Bros., 39 E. 33rd St., New York 16, N. Y., 1959.

Mr. MacNeill is an attorney who has lectured frequently before women's clubs and similar groups. He says that he has kept a record of the questions most frequently asked him, and brought the answers together in this book. It covers more ground than the title suggested, because it goes also into such matters as the income taxes. But it is hard to think of any question concerning the disposition of property, that the book does not cover. If much of it sounds complicated, it is because the subject is a complicated one!

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HEREDITY COUNSELING, ed. by Helen G. Hammons. Pp. 112, price $4 from Paul B. Hoeber (medical dept. of Harper & Bros., 49 E. 33rd St. New York 16, N.Y., 1959.

Many other countries offer more

widespread help in heredity counseling than do the United States. The American Eugenics Society sponsored a symposium in which 17 qualified persons discussed the subject and Mrs. Hammons, managing editor of the *Eugenics Quarterly,* has organized the papers successfully for publication in a book which will probably be of interest primarily to physicians, rather than to educators in general. The first section deals with genetics in medical practice, the second with heredity counseling—its possibilities and limitations, particularly in everyday practice. "The most important requisite of of any genetic counselor is the possession of a high degree of c o m m o n sense," says Harold F. Falls. Bentley Glass suggests that new fields of extraordinary importance and complexity may open in the next quarter of a century, with the production of a satisfactory o r a l contraceptive, the possibility of freezing semen for artificial insemination in later years, the possibility of controlling the production of sexes, and the discovery of possible methods of actually altering the germplasm.

Inexpensive Pamphlets

EATING IS FOR EVERYBODY, by B. Kidd. Pp. 17, price 80c, from the National Dairy Council, 111 N. Canal st., Chicago 6, Ill. Good eating habits for both sexes.

DESIGNING A BETTER TOMORROW, Pp. 17, free from the Education Committee, New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 115 E. 40th st., New York 16, N. Y. To interest junior and senior high school boys and girls in architecture as a career.

WHO ME!, Pp. 22, price 15c from the National Dairy Council, 11 N. Canal st., Chicago 6, Ill. Ten check lists for high school boys that help with self-improvement.

MY REFLECTIONS, Pp. 20, price 10c from the National Dairy Council, 111 No. Canal st., Chicago 6, Ill. A self-evaluation booklet for high school girls.

Other Books Received

THE ALIVE AND GROWING TEACHER, by Clark E. Moustakas. Pp. 157 (no index,) price $3 from Philosophical Library, 15 S. 40th st., New York, N.Y., 1959.

SALESMANSHIP TODAY AND TOMORROW, by Anthony Pheil. Pp. 37 (no index,) price $1.95 from Greenwich Pub., 489 Fifth ave., New York, N.Y., 1959.

DIE ERWERBSTATIGE MUTTER (The Working Mother,) Pp. 56, from Katholischen Familienverbandes Oster-reichs, Vienna, Austria. Five articles on the problems of working mothers.

DIRECTORY OF MEMBER AGENCIES, Family Service Association of America (1959 edition). Pp. 93, price $1.00 from Publications Service, Family Service Association of America, 215 Fourth ave., New York 3, N. Y.

CATHARTICS AND COMMON SENSE, by William R. Farrar, M.D. Pp. 154, price $1.25 from J. B. Lippincott Co., E. Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa., 1959.

GENUINELY HUMAN EXISTENCE, by Stephen Neill. Pp. 312, price $4.50 from Doubleday & Co., 575 Madison ave., New York 22, N. Y., 1959.

THE POWER OF A PURPOSE, by Nenien C. McPherson, jr. Pp. 156 (no index), price $2.50 from Fleming H. Revell Co., Westwood, N. J., 1959.

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